## EDITORIAL NOTES.

"There were no fresh cases of pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland during the week" is the gratifying intelligence to be found in our report of the Contagious Diseases in Animals for the week ending December 1st. We may certainly congratulate the Veterinary Department of the Privy Council in Ireland on their efforts to stamp out the disease under the Slaughter Order of 1888. In doing so we do not lose sight of the fact that this disease has a long period of incubation and a still longer period of latency. We quite expect future outbreaks and are not sanguine enough to suppose that the disease is positively non-existent in the Emerald Isle. The fact however, of its not being visibly existent is evidence of progress and suggestive of the activity and success of the Veterinary Department, who may be trusted to deal effectively with any development of disease which may arise.

At the beginning of the year they were returning on an average about six outbreaks a week, whereas in the first eight weeks of the present quarter only twelve outbreaks were reported, and now they have reached a week without an outbreak, and without a single animal attacked,

The cost of this freedom from disease has doubtless been considerable, but if no further spread occur, it will be money well invested. When the farmers and graziers of Great Britain are once assured that Irish stock is healthy, and that they need not fear infection by the importation of pleuro-pneumonia from Ireland, they will purchase with increased freedom, and Irish store stock will be enhanced in value accordingly. Irish cattle have long had a suspicion attached to them, and probably not without reason have they been accused of introducing disease into Norfolk and Scotland. Such a suspicion must have been detrimental to their sale, and now, if only their freedom from disease be maintained, the wisdom of energetic and costly measures will soon be demonstrated, and an example set to some local authorities in England and Scotland.

"Nothing succeeds like success." Authorities are now too much afraid of the rate-payers, and too timid to adopt the Slaughter Order energetically on the very earliest appearance of disease. The success of the Irish Department will be a great encouragement to the adoption here of true economy.

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Without being so unpatriotic as to deny that the British human and the British equine are the two finest animals on the face of the earth, we may express a guarded doubt as to whether this superiority will be mantained. As to the Human we form no very definite opinion; but we may mention, as excuses for our doubts, the performances of Colonial oarsmen and cricketers; French cyclists; Hungarian horsemen; German clerks; and American pedestrians.

As to the Equine we are quite satisfied that, at present, our English hunters and race horses are an easy first. We are equally sure that other nations are more carefully and systematically striving to improve their breeds, and constantly making use of our best stud animals. The very large and constantly increasing importations of horses into this country, is positive evidence that the countries from which they come are more nearly approaching our own standard of excellence. Fortunately it requires some generations to establish a breed of horses. Our thoroughbred is the result of over two centuries of careful selection. Its excellence also probably depends somewhat upon climatic influence, and national tastes and judgment. We possess then every essential to still retain the lead in horse production, but if these are not properly applied we may lose our advantages. If we continue breeding from unsound animals, select our best horses simply with a view to their performance on the flat, permit our choicest mares to be purchased by foreigners, and persist in breeding from animals of totally different form and style, with a hope that the produce may be a mixture of the good points of both, we shall certainly deteriorate.

Foreign nations, on the contrary, purchase our most suitable animals, breed with the direct object of obtaining a definite stamp, use only sound stallions and mares, whilst they employ the best intelligence and the best surroundings to effect their purpose. This concentration of money and brains on one direct issue is certain to be successful, and no further demonstration of the fact that it is rapidly attaining its object is necessary, than the extracts we printed last week on "Horse Breeding in France," and "Horse Breeding in Italy."

Last year the French had 2,500 state stallions, every one of which must be free from hereditary unsoundness, and so satisfied were the authorities with their stud that not one of the 246 stallions necessary to supply the deficiencies caused by death and sales, was purchased in England. In further proof of the great improvement effected in the horseflesh of France, may be mentioned the fact that other nations have commenced to purchase their thoroughbred and half-bred animals in that country.

In Italy a law has just been passed authorising an expenditure of nearly £20,000 a year for the next eight years, on the purchase of stallions. In addition to this the Government offer prizes for racing and trotting as an encouragement to horse-breeding.

We must waken up if we intend to retain our superiority. Private enterprise is all very well, and individual freedom is very admirable, but it cannot compete with the properly directed collective efforts of a State.

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We recently had a little difference about the administration of chloroform expressed in our pages, and we have heard lately of some rather startling feats in operative surgery, by human practitioners. Nothing, however, has surpassed the following statement published in *The Globe*, of Dec. 13th: "The Doctor's hand was very seriously cut, and he had to be placed under chloroform for two hours while his hand was being sewn up." The wound must have been of enormous extent, or the operating surgeon somewhat deliberate or ——!

# ARTICLES AND CASES.

## FATAL OBSTRUCTION OF INTESTINE BY A BLOOD-CLOT.

By Albert Wheatley, F.R.C.V.S.

*On September 12th*, our attention was requested to a roan mare, five years old, which had been in the same owner's hands for eighteen months and never presented any sign of illness. She had just returned from a three months' run at grass, and was looking very well until a feed of dry corn was given instead of a mash, which had been ordered. Symptoms of colic arose, and this was why my assistant was first called. He adopted the usual treatment for indigestion and colic, and she was admitted to my infirmary next day, still in pain.

*On the 14th* the pain ceased and bowels acted. The mare fed, but only soft diet was allowed.

*On the 15th*, signs of abdominal pain returned and continued more or less for a fortnight—the pulse being all the time accelerated, the countenance anxious, and the visible mucous membranes injected.

*About the 29th* she seemed to improve, fed well, the other symptoms abated, and everything seemed going favourably. Then the bowels again got costive, and pain returned.

*Until October 18th* the symptoms continued, on and off, when I advised the owner to have her destroyed. This was done, and my assistant, Mr. Stainton, made a post-mortem examination. The only lesion to be seen was a "growth" on and in the small intestine distending that organ and occupying about six inches of its length. When cut into, it was found to be a large blood-clot which seemed to me so unique a condition that I refrained from farther examination, and have sent it up to you for more careful examination.

### Remarks by Professor Axe.

The portion of intestine referred to was about eight inches in length. One extremity (probably the proximal) was nearly twice the diameter of the other. The mucous membrane was raised from the muscular layer by a clot of blood about five inches in diameter, by which the lumen of the gut was almost obliterated—the detached portion of the membrane being pushed inward towards the opposite surface. The blood-clot was firm in consistence, but had undergone very slight decolourisation or change. It appeared to be of recent origin.

At one side of the gut near to the point at which the attached and detached mucous membrane met, there was a short canal about two inches in length and three-quarters-of-an-inch in diameter within the intestine. It had an opening at either extremity communicating with the alimentary passage, and was lined by the common mucous membrane.

The small canal followed the course of the larger one and seemed to have grown out of the side of it, and suggested a condition of aberrent development.

What connection *(if any)*, this apparent anomalous development had with the submucous hœmorrhage, does not appear to me capable of explanation.

## A CASE OF ŒDEMA OF THE LARYNX.

By William Willis, M.R.C.V.S., Camden Town.

Early last August, a client bought a 9-years-old black draught horse wearing an ordinary self-fixing tube in his trachea. I found on enquiry, that it had been necessary to introduce the tube whilst he was suffering from Œdema of the Larynx in the previous June.

He was incapable of doing anything in harness with the opening of the tube covered over, so he was put into work wearing it. He did well at very hard work till the 6th of October, when my attention was called to him on account of his being lame. I found great lameness of the near fore limb, which passed off completely after he had walked about fifty yards, and returned again as markedly if he stood for a few seconds. He would, in progression, advance the other three feet, and then raising his body on them, would swing his near fore leg round describing a half circle with the foot. The lameness was evidently located somewhere about the shoulder, but I failed on making a careful examination to detect anything, either there, or elsewhere in the limb to account for it. There was considerable swelling over the left parotidean region, and a very troublesome cough accompanied by a profuse discharge of frothy serum from the nose, mouth, and tube. He had a strong, regular pulse of 50, Temperature of 102, and Respirations, when not distressed by the cough, about 8 per minute. He was anxious to feed but could not on account of the state of his throat.

His lameness and the swelling over the parotid gradually passed away by the fourth day, and he seemed much improved. On the sixth day he gave evidences of lung complications. His pulse had risen to over 70 per minute, Respirations 16, and Temperature to 105·5. There was a total absence of sound in the lower part of the chest on both sides. His lung trouble was no doubt caused by the constant passage of fluids, and solids suspended therein, into the bronchial tubes. Every effort at swallowing was accompanied by a flow of water through the tracheotomy tube.

On the eighth day it was noted, that lameness of precisely the same charscter as that which had affected the near fore leg, now affected the off one.

His appetite had failed, he had become much weakened, and his cough more distressing, so he was destroyed on the twelfth day of his illness.

At the post-mortem the usual pyrexial changes were apparent in the liver, kidneys, and heart; with petechial marking of the pericardium, and sooty staining of the endocardium. The lower parts of both lungs were completely disorganized, while throughout the middle, and to some extent the upper parts, were distributed a number of small abscesses.

The chief interest however, centres in the larynx and pharnyx where the mucous membrane was much damaged. It was almost crimson in colour over the surface generally, and in many places had been completely destroyed by ulceration. The ulcers were well defined, extended completely through the mucous membrane, and some of them exposed the underlying structures. There was no thickening of their edges, and all were of an intense black colour over their bases, and margins. One of these ulcers, larger than the rest, (about as big as a sixpence); occupied the right side of the larynx just on the level of the cricoid ring, and exposed a portion of that body. Immediately above it was a firm thickening of much older standing, in the middle of which was a minute opening through the mucous membrane. This was found to lead, through a sinus in a bony deposit around the crico-arytenoid articulation, towards that joint. An open joint had probably been established by ulceration at the time of his illness in June. The right arytenoid cartilage was so fixed by the anchylosis of the joint as to project far into the lumen of the larynx. The right vocal cord felt much thicker than the left, and the thyro-arytenoid muscles on the right side seemed very bulky. They had probably hypertrophied after the anchylosis of the joint. The left side of the larynx was affected with advanced atrophy of its muscles as seen in typical roarers. I had no opportunity of examining the limbs to find the cause of his lameness.

## "ROPY" CREAM.

By Mr. W. Bashford.

Mr. Gartside Mayor, in a letter he was kind enough to send in reply to "T.C.F." gives a reference to Dr. Fleming's "Veterinary Sanitary Science" Vol. II., p. 582. As the subject is one of interest and importance, I beg to send you extract from the chapter on "Inspection of Milk," the section which seems to refer to this abnormal condition.

"*Viscid Milk* generally appears quite healthy when drawn from the teat; it is rare to find it viscid and stringy just then. It coagulates in the usual way, though generally imperfectly, and the cream is in small quantity and unequally formed on the surface. In attempting to pour it from the vessel the cream flows in streaks, and the other portion more particularly runs off in viscid, mucus-like streams, like a strong decoction of linseed, or half-melted glue. This milk has a stale, mucus taste, it is not acid, and gives but little butter which has a bad flavour and does not keep.

This kind of milk is generally obtained from cattle which are to all appearance, quite healthy, and its peculiarity may be due to the condition of the dairy, which is probably damp, badly ventilated, and contains unhealthy vapours; want of cleanliness in preserving the milk may also cause it to undergo this alteration. Certain atmospherical conditions may likewise influence its production. It appears to consist in a mucoid fermentation of the milk, and the consecutive transformation of the lactin and casein. The ferment produced, whatever it may be, will give rise to the same alteration when a small portion of this milk is added to a large quantity of that which is healthy. In other cases this alteration appears to be owing to digestive derangement,—as it has been noted in the milk of poorly fed and badly cared-for cows. This milk has been found to contain a large proportion of albumen as well as carbonate of ammonia. Hence this affection in cattle has been designated "lacteal albuminuria."

Vernier has witnessed it in cows in perfect health, fed on white clover and lupuline in flower, and kept at the picket in dry weather. Change of fodder and lowering treatment had no effect, but amendment and ultimate recovery took place on administering nitrated drinks. The milk was viscid and stringy, had a yellowish tinge, and in its mass were seen darker yellow points. In 100,000 parts were found no less than 11·02 of albumen instead of 4·00, the normal proportion. Microscopically this milk resembles colostrum, but its power of converting healthy milk distinguishes it. It yields a scanty, oily butter, possessing a bad taste. The milk itself, although disagreeable and repugnant as food has not been proved to be injurious.

## DEFECTIVE MILK.

By Perplexed.

About the commencement of last November, I was asked to look at a cow which had something amiss with her milk, the complaint being, that it smelt and tasted very badly and that they *could not make butter from the cream.*

The cow, which is the only one kept by her owner had been in his possession for several years, has had four calves, and had nothing amiss until a few days previous to my seeing her. The description given me was:—that for a short time after commencing to churn, the cream would appear to be turning alright, but afterwards it commenced to get frothy, and continued to do so until there was a mass of froth; and the cream was thinner than when first placed in the churn, and no amount of churning seemed to alter it from this state. I made a thorough examination for any constitutional or local symptoms, but failed to find the slightest clue.

At this time the animal was in the field by day and housed by night, so ordered her to be kept in, and a complete change of food to be given. Medicinally, I gave a Cathartic, followed by Salines and Diuretics, and for a short time the milk slightly improved, but very quickly relapsed. Another change of food was now tried and Chologogues given, thinking that it might be due to the presence of some of the bile constituents in the circulatory system, resulting from some functional disorder of the liver, although no external symptoms could be seen to indicate that such was the case; but this treatment failed to have any effect. The milk, as

regards colour, quantity, quality, and "thickness of cream," appears normal, but it has a *bitter-sweet* taste which is extremely disagreeable, and I can find nothing unusual in it either by ocular or microscopical examination. I may mention that the water which the animal drinks is the same as is used in the house, and consequently above suspicion.

Being only four months advanced in pregnancy, the treatment of letting her dry up would be rather expensive, besides incurring the risk of having the same complaint after calving.

I have never met or heard of a similar case, neither can I find any account of such a disorder, and if any reader of *The Veterinary Record* can tell me the cause, I should be very much obliged.

NOTE.—In the chapter on milk, referred to by Mr. G. Mayor and by Mr. Bashford in Fleming's "Sanitary Science," a similar condition is described.

"The butter is separated with difficulty, or there is none at all. The cream looks like an emulsion, becomes foamy in the churn . . . . . The addition of a little acid to such a cream promotes the separation of the butter. . . . . It is usually sufficient. if the weather be hot, to place the churn in cold water, or to add a little acid to the milk, or a quantity of sour cream." Please test and report.—*Ed. Vet. Record.*

## ROYAL COUNTIES' VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association was held at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, London, on Friday, the 30th November last. F. W. Wragg, Esq., President of the Association, in the Chair.

After the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, Mr. Sidney J. Blanchard, M.R.C.V.S., Highworth, Wilts., was unanimously elected a Member of the Association.

The Hon. Sec. then read the report of the Instrument Committee, authorising the President to purchase the instruments, viz :—

Professor Robertson's Tooth Shears.
Professor Robertson's Tooth Forceps.
Professor Pritchard's Tooth Forceps.
Gowing's Tooth Chisel.
Arnold's Tooth Forceps.
Double Tooth Rasp.
Oak Case covered in leather.

The President placed the case with the instruments on the table. Rules were then adopted for regulating the loan of the Instruments to Members of the Association.

Mr. J. P. S. Walker, Hon. Treasurer, read a statement of accounts for the past year which showed a satisfactory balance in favour of the Association.

The following Office Bearers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year :—

*President :—*
Mr. G. A. Dreeve, Abingdon.

*Vice-Presidents :—*
Mr. A. Wheatley, Reading.
„ W. Wilson, Berkhamstead.
„ F. W. Wragg, London.
„ H. Kidd, Hungerford.

*Hon. Treasurer :—*
Mr. J. P. S. Walker, Oxford.
*Hon. Secretary :—*
Mr. H. Kidd.

It was unanimously resolved to hold the Annual Meeting in February, at Reading.

The Hon. Sec. announced that he had received on behalf of the Association, two volumes from Professor Frank S. Billings, Director of the Pathological College of Nebraska, one on Yellow Fever, and the other on Swine Plague, and upon the motion of Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Wilson, it was decided that the thanks of the Society be forwarded to the gentleman who had sent them.

### DISCUSSION ON PROFESSOR WALLEY'S PAPER ON OPHTHALMIA.

THE PRESIDENT introduced the main subject of the occasion by saying :—Our next business is the discussion on Professor Walley's paper, and I must say it is an exceedingly interesting one. Professor Walley came all the way from Edinburgh for the purpose of reading it, and I should like to hear any remarks that our members have to make respecting it.

MR. HURNDALL, (London), said :—I have not had the opportunity of reading the paper very carefully, but it appears to me, that Professor Walley has gone into the subject very deeply and closely, and probably far more so than in ordinary practice we shall ever have our attention drawn to it. There are two forms of ophthalmia which strike me as most likely to demand onr notice—one in the horse, which Professor Walley describes as the *superficial* form, and which is of deep interest to us, and the second, that in the dog. The first, that in the horse, so far as my experience has gone—strikes me as arising mainly from two causes—from noxious gases, or from draughts or cold winds; that in the dog, follows, as a rule, after distemper, and I have always been of opinion that that is a *specific* ophthalmia, because I have always been of opinion that distemper is a specific disease. Of course there are various opinions held as to the character of that disease, and there are many forms of illness which dogs suffer from and which are not attributed to distemper, but which I think may be recognized as having some connection with that disease. This I have noticed develope after a dog has 'got over the worst part of an ailing. It seems generally to settle itself in the eye, and unless it is taken in time it may lead to ulceration of the cornea, and that I take to arise from the specific virus associated with distemper. There is one point of which Professor Walley does not take any notice—viz., a remedy which I have found very useful—nitrate of silver, both for external and internal application. I observe that Professor Walley remarks that where there is purulent ophthalmia the bichloride of mercury is mentioned as a remedy, but he speaks of it as a germicide. I have been instrumental in curing it with bi-chloride of mercury administered internally, and with warm water externally. Here is one other point. Professor Walley speaks of the usefulness of arnica, and I can confirm that in

cases of traumatic ophthalmia, but not in any others. Arnica is a specific application for all injuries of a traumatic character, if used in appropriate strength, according to the delicacy of the organ, and so likewise is bi-chloride of mercury as prepared by those very much maligned gentlemen, the homœopathic chemists, and according to the size and strength of the dog I should give 5, 10, or 20 grains of mixture prepared on the scale of 1 in 1,000.

Mr. Wilson, (Berkhampstead), remarked that a drug to effectually destroy germs must be of immense strength and potency, and administered in sufficient quantity. Bi-chloride of mercury was generally accepted as one of the best agents they could employ, but when given in such infinitesimal doses, he doubted whether it could be efficacious.

Mr. Hurndall:—You have understood that Professor Walley considers that this form of ophthalmia should be treated with a germicide, and I remarked that I have used it internally, and that he has used it externally, and have cured various forms of ophthalmia; therefore, it doesn't matter whether it is a germ or it is not; but, quite apart from that, you will find that wherever you can get a chemical test, by the use of the proportions I have named, it is quite capable of exterminating germs. I don't look upon it as a question of amount at all, since a very minute portion—a far less portion than I have named, in fact—is discernible by chemical tests.

Mr. Jones, (Leicester).—In purulent ophthalmia I have found quinine the best and most efficacious thing that I have tried. I dress it with a camel's hair brush in the proportion of five grains to the ounce.

Mr. Kidd, (Hon. Sec.):—I don't intend to make any observations on the paper, although Professor Walley gave me credit for selecting the subject. It is one of very great importance to us as veterinary surgeons, and he is quite right in saying, that we do not give the amount of attention we ought to the subject. There is one kind of ophthalmia I have frequently observed in sheep in the spring-time of the year. Whether I am correct as to the cause of it I don't know, but I think the indigestible dry food, when there is but slight dew, and more especially if it adjoins a plantation, gives rise to it. It does not generally last very long, and the treatment is very simple—a mild laxative and change of food generally has the desired effect. In Hants. there is a kind of certain physiological agent which causes ophthalmia—I have frequently encountered it, but I have had difficulty in ascertaining what the particular medicine used was. I have an idea that the principal one used is a preparation of antimony—an active acid, but I don't think that would find general favour, on account of its expense.

That species of ophthalmia was very difficult to cure, and would not generally succeed without a thorough cleaning out of the system beside external remedies. There is one thing that I observed two years ago in two colts, born in separate years, from the same mare. When they were foaled they were totally blind, and you could see in both eyes as if the humours and lens were entirely absent, and yet the eyes were prominent and quite clear, with a reddish tinge deeply seated. The mare, as far as I was able to see, was perfectly healthy. Now, what was the cause of that peculiar appearance in the two colts from the same mare? I followed them for some time, and both are living now, and they are both as blind to-day, but that appearance has changed, and the eyes seem filled up with a dark pigment. I never attempted any cure because I held the idea that it would be fruitless. I should like to hear the opinion of our members as to whether there are any agents which, if given internally, would cause such a condition to exist.

Mr. Wilson, (Berkhampstead).—There is a species of ophthalmia among cattle and calves that we call sporadic; *i.e.*, we get a number of animals fall down with it; and it seems to me, unless we apply a more powerful remedy, like nitrate of silver, ulceration will follow in the cornea. I have had a perfect epidemic of it. From what the irritation follows in the first instance I don't know, but it has been quite an epidemic.

In answer to Mr. Kidd's concluding remark,

Mr. Simpson, (Maidenhead), said:—I don't know of anything in our pharmacopœia—and I very much doubt whether there is anything—that you could bring to bear that would produce ophthalmia. I don't know of any medicine, and think you would have difficulty in finding it.

Mr. Kidd:—I think I have read something about there being such a drug.

The President:—I think we, as an association, are very greatly indebted to Professor Walley for his kindness in coming among us and giving us such a very excellent paper. I should have liked it had Professor Walley entered more into cataract, because that is one of the principal diseases of the eye we are called upon to give an opinion about. There is more often a difference of opinion as to whether it is cataract than about any other disease on which we are asked to give an opinion, and there are many cases of cataract which have little or no effect on the sight. That is to say, I have seen horses with cataract in their eye that were able to trot, and jump, and see things just as well as if it were not there, and I am inclined to think that unless cataracts are of such a size they don't interfere with the sight, but remain in that state for some years. I remember a horse a man brought to me. It suffered from congenital cataract, and ran for eight or nine years, at the end of which time it was in just the same condition—it did not affect the horse—at all events, very little. I had a very good hunter suffering in a similar way, and showed it to my friend, Professor Pritchard. He remarked, that he would not like to ride it over a fence. We put up a stout bar, some two square inches, and she jumped that as many times as I liked to ask her; evidently showing that although she had cataract in each eye it didn't affect her vision. She was sold afterwards to a master-of-the-hounds, and was used for cubbing, and hunted in the Essex country during cub-hunting. Though very dark, on account of the overhanging bushes and trees, she never put a foot wrong or had a fall during the whole season.

Professor Walley:—Mr. Hurndall said I did not notice Argent Nit. as a remedy—on page 12 of the reprint of my paper I refer to its use in corneal ulceration, and in reference to its use in purulent ophthalmia, I classified it as a germicide, though I did not specify it particularly. I fail to see what influence it can have on the eye when given internally.

He also questions the germicide action of Bi-chloride of Mercury, and yet he asserts that it is useful in Traumatic injuries.

In what way is it useful here, except as a germicide? I should have thought that the germicide properties of Bi-chloride of Mercury were sufficiently proved by this time.

I do not give it internally, but I give Calomel or Hydrarg. cum Creta largely though only as alteratives and from the well-known effects of Mercury in facilitating the removal of inflammatory products. It would be absurd to give Mercury internally as a *germicide*.

In reply to Mr. Jones, I have tried Quinine as an external remedy, but did not get good results from it.

Mr. Kidd asks if there is any agent known that will produce ophthalmia! No! but the intravenous injection of sugar or salt will produce temporary cataract (opacity).

The Snowflake Cataract, or "Scintillating" Cataract, mentioned by Mr. Walker, I have seen twice in my life. It is associated with liquefaction of the Vitreous Humour, and is due either to breaking up of an old Cataractus lens, or to the breaking up of an exudate.

The President regretted that I had not referred to Cataract. I could not possibly do so in such limited space, especially as it is a sequel to ophthalmia, but I may remark that his statement as to a horse being able to see with Cataract is contrary to all practical observation, and unless the Cataract be small and out of the line of vision, the retention of sight would be contrary to all physical laws.

After a cordial vote of thanks was given to Professor Walley, and to the retiring President for his conduct in the chair, the meeting terminated.

H. Kidd, *Hon. Sec.*

# GOVERNMENT VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

## CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN ANIMALS.

*Reported in Great Britain and Ireland in the week ending December 1st, 1888.*

*Pleuro Pneumonia.*—There were ten fresh outbreaks of this disease reported upon in Great Britain during the week. Of these, 8 were in England, in the counties of Cumberland, Kent, Norfolk, Somerset, Suffolk, Sussex (East), and York (W.R.); the other 2 in the counties of Edinburgh and Fife, in Scotland. The number of cattle attacked was 34, of which 29 were in England, and 5 in Scotland. In addition to this, 162 healthy cattle, which had been exposed to infection, were slaughtered.

There were no fresh cases of pleuro-pneumonia in Ireland during the week.

*Glanders and Farcy.*—There were 13 fresh outbreaks of glanders reported, 12 in the Metropolis and 1 in Middlesex. 25 horses were attacked by the malady, 18 in the Metropolis, 1 in Middlesex, and 6 in Lanarkshire. Of farcy, 10 fresh outbreaks were reported, 9 in the Metropolis, and 1 in Surrey; 18 horses were attacked, of which only 1 was outside the Metropolis. No case of either Glanders or Farcy reported in Ireland during the week.

*Rabies.*—In England 2 cases of rabies in dogs were reported in the counties of Lancaster and Sussex (East). In Ireland there were 6 cases of this disease: 2 in dogs, in Fermanagh and Limerick; 3 in cattle, in Tyrone, Cork, and Westmeath; and 1 pig died from this malady in Tyrone.

*Anthrax.*—In England 4 outbreaks of this disease were reported in the Counties of Lincoln (Lindsey), Suffolk, and Warwick, in which 4 animals were attacked, 3 of which died. No cases of this malady were reported in either Scotland, Wales, or Ireland, during the week.

*Swine-Fever.*—Of this disease, 114 fresh outbreaks were reported on, only 2 of which were in Scotland and Wales. In these outbreaks 744 swine were attacked, and according to the return, 318 diseased swine died, 32 recovered, and 394 remained alive in a diseased condition at the end of the week.

There were 9 fresh outbreaks of swine-fever in Ireland: 27 pigs were attacked, 8 diseased swine were killed, 13 died, 1 recovered, and 7 remained alive diseased at the date of the return.

# EXTRACTS.

## AMERICAN TROTTERS.

In the recently-issued Report of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture for 1887, is an account of the national horse of America, the "trotter," *par excellence*, which is, as Mr. Leslie Macleod, the writer, avers, "distinctively and peculiarly an "American production, whose evolution has been but "an incident in the development of the Republic. "In no other land has the trotter been generally "bred, in no other land has he been brought into "high development as a breed; nor in any other "land has he been accepted and utilised as specially "and superiorly adapted to the uses of the people."

"The facts are, then, that the fast-trotting horse "is distinctively an American production: of all "our breeds the trotting horse is the only one that "we can claim as peculiarly American; he fills, "with the American people a range of uses that no "other breed or variety can fill; and he is bred in "America to an extent unapproached by other "breeds."

But the progenitor of all the American trotting horses, "the Adam of American trotters," as Lord Cathcart styles him in his article *on Half-bred Horses for the Field and Road,* came from England.

"Imported" Messenger, as he was called to distinguish him from other Messengers—his descendants—was imported at Philadelphia in 1788; having been foaled in 1780 he lived on to 1808, whose "crowning glory of his twenty years' service "was that he left a race of driving horses of ex- "ceeding excellence, and as he inherited this quality "from his sire, so he imparted it to his sons, and "they in their turn to theirs, until we have to-day "from this stock the fleetest and stoutest trotters "in the world."

"Imported" Messenger was a grey horse bred by John Platt, of Newmarket, by Mambrino out of a daughter of Turf. Mambrino was by Engineer, directly descended from "Flying" Childers; and Turf from the Godolphin Arabian. Yet, in order to substantiate his theory of the transmission of trotting qualities, Mr. Macleod states, on the authority of Mr. Wallace, the compiler of the American Trotting Register, that Messenger was not strictly thoroughbred. In short, it is averred that there was a blot somewhere in his pedigree, but that this blot was the source of his trotting.

It seems that from three sons of Messenger, viz., Mambrino, Bishop's Hambletonian, and Winthorp Messenger, three distinct strains of trotters have been formed, of which that from Mambrino is by far the most distinguished. From Bishop's Hambletonian proceeded Whalebone, which horse in 1830 ranked with the best of his day as a long distance trotter, and has to his credit a performance of 32 miles in 1 hour, 58 minutes, and 5 seconds.

Winthorp Messenger was the progenitor of Trustee, the first horse to trot 20 miles within the hour, which feat only six horses have accomplished to this day. Bell Strickland, a famous mare, having trotted a mile in 2 minutes, 26 seconds, was also of this blood,

Two lines are traced from Mambrino, "the greatest in all trotting history." To these belong the famous Lady Thorn with a record of 2 minutes 18¼ seconds, and from this horse originated the "Clay" and the "Black Hawk" families.

Mr. Macleod gives practical advice to would-be breeders of trotters, and urges that, if the American farmer breeds from a sound, handsome, trotting-bred mare put to a stallion of equal qualifications, there is hardly a possibility that, intelligently managed, he will not derive a good profit from this business.

He adds some canons for guidance: "1st. Ac- "quired habits and instincts are transmissible and "hereditary. 2nd. Habits of action may be estab- "lished by training, and these habits become an "hereditary instinct in the descendants of the "animals in which they were established. 3rd. This "hereditary instinct is increased, intensified, and "strengthened by development, and is, therefore, "transmitted by developed animals in an increased "and intensified degree. 4th. On the other hand, "by non-development and disuse the instinct be- "comes weakened, and, finally, in a series of "generations is lost."

In conclusion, it is observed that "the American "horse is the best type of the equine race, the "most practical and the most valued. His im- "portance to our commerce, the wide range of uses "he serves so well, and his peculiar excellence and "beauty in the places which no other type can fill, "are reasons sufficient that the American light "harness horse and the intelligent methods of his "production should hold a foremost place in the "business of the agricultural classes of this nation."

## MILK FEVER.

In *The Manchester Guardian* a correspondence has been going on for some weeks, which is not uninteresting. On Oct. 11th, a letter signed: "Henry Waring, Quarry Master and Farmer," appeared, which offered all cow-keepers an unfailing preventive of great simplicity, viz: "Half starve the cow for a few days before calving."

On Oct. 18th appeared another letter signed: "A.B.," which gave instances of the opposite course of treatment being accompanied by no cases of Milk Fever, and finished with a reference to a lecture by Dr. Cullingworth of London, on "Puerperal Fever," and a question whether what "we call milk fever in cows, may not be identical with the fever referred to amongst women."

On Oct. 25th, Mr. J. B. Wolstenholme, F.R.C.V.S., wrote:—

"It is of the first importance in comparing notes on a subject of this description that no mistake be made as to the precise affection referred to. Milk fever in veterinary literature is synonymous with "parturient apoplexy" and "dropping after calving." Parturient fever is a totally different disease, being due to the presence of micro-organisms in the blood, giving rise to what is commonly called "blood poisoning." It is highly contagious, and is accompanied by high temperature, etc. Parturient fever is not confined to the human subject; it also prevails amongst cows and all the domesticated quadrupeds. The symptoms, progress, and various terminations of the disease are similar in every species, and the virus of each is equally capable of producing blood poisoning. Parturient apoplexy or milk fever of the cow more resembles parturient eclampsia of the woman than any other disease I am aware of, and I never heard or read of the latter disease being considered at all contagious. Parturient apoplexy, so far as I know, is a disease peculiar to the bovine species, and then only when in a state of domestication. It is in no sense a febrile disease, the popular term "fever" being a misnomer. Indeed, the temperature is rather lower than normal, and no micro-organisms have yet been discovered in the blood which are considered to be in any way connected with it. Directly after death from parturient fever the carcase becomes putrid and offensive to a great degree, whilst, on the con-

trary, in death from parturient apoplexy cadaveric change is not more marked than that following death during parturition. With this I will conclude my mite to the controversy, and hope that some practical good will result."

On Nov. 8th the subject is resumed by "A.B.," who writes :—

"Sir,—Not being satisfied with Mr. Wolstenholme's answer as to the analogy between puerperal fever in the human female and what has been called milk fever in cattle, I communicated with Dr. Cullingworth, obstetric physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, London, whose lecture I referred to in my query. That gentleman, it will be seen from copy of his letter below, has no doubt as to the analogy, and after reading his address and after calling to mind my own experience, I feel convinced he is right. Dr. Cullingworth agrees that the matter is one of extreme and even national importance, and in consenting to the publication of his letter asks that a copy of my letter to him may also appear at the same time. I therefore send you copy of the two in hope that good may result."

Then follows Dr. Cullingworth's letter, which omits to state how many cases of "Milk Fever" he has seen but with the confidence so indicative of the scientific (?) mind says, "*I have no doubt at all*" of the analogy of Puerperal Fever in women with "Milk Fever" in cows.

(Copy).

46 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.,
October 30, 1888.

My dear Mr. B———I have very great pleasure in replying to your inquiries to the best of my ability. Several points referred to in your interesting letter you will, I think, find cleared up in my address, copy of which I send you. The disease which formed the subject of my lecture was formerly supposed to be due to an accumulation of milk in the veins, just as Mr. Waring considers the milk fever in cattle to be caused now. That and many other equally plausible theories have had their day in connection with human pathology, and have been long ago disproved. I have no doubt at all that the disease from which your cattle died is analogous to puerperal fever in the human female. As you will see from my pamphlet, puerperal fever manifests itself in more ways than one, but the results of disinfection show that, whatever the mode of manifestation, the disease originates from something that is capable of being destroyed by the use of antiseptics. There are strong reasons for believing that this "something" consists of microscopic organisms or germs. The cases in which no rise of temperature is observed, and in which a clammy sweat ushers in a speedy death are cases in which the infection has been extremely active, or the infective material excessive in amount, and in which the peritoneum (or membrane lining the abdominal cavity and covering the womb and bowels) has received the brunt of the disease. In severe inflammation of that membrane, which is one of the forms puerperal fever most commonly takes in the human female, the temperature often gives no clue to the intensity of the disease; it is one of the few cases where the thermometer is likely to mislead instead of helping. I gather from your letter that you assist the cows yourself at calving time; if so, I advise you to disinfect yourself, especially the hands and nails, according to the directions in my address, and I firmly believe, if you do this, allowing no one else to touch the cow, and taking care that all straw or other cleansing material, after being once used for a cow at calving time, is *burnt*, you will banish the so-called "milk fever" from your farm.

I remain, &c.,
(Signed), C. J. Cullingworth.

To this Mr. Wolstenholme replied on Nov. 15th; but his letter is so long we can only offer an extract.

"I have read Dr. Cullingworth's lecture as reported in the *Lancet*. I know something also of the literature of puerperal fever in the human subject, and by this means have no difficulty in recognising the analogy between it and what we call puerperal or parturient fever of the cow, of the mare, the ewe and the bitch. Not only do we recognise this, but we are fully aware of the causes which give rise to it (as set forth in Dr. Cullingworth's lecture and by medical authorities). We know of its septic, contagious properties, even when called upon to expose our hand and the entire length of our arm, when removing the fœtal membranes from a cow which has been calved some days. We insist on isolotation, the burning of bedding, and the use of every antiseptic precaution known to us. I might also interpolate at this point that in the cow this disease is generally traceable to some direct septic invasion, as retention of placental membranes, or delivery or presence of a dead calf. The cow also, as is well known to those practically acquainted with the subject, has a remarkable power of resisting this particular septic influence, and it is a well-ascertained fact that retention of fœtal membranes by the cow is much less serious than in the mare. But with respect to parturient apoplexy the case is altogether different, and I cannot but express my fear that Dr. Cullingworth does not sufficiently understand the clinical and *post-mortem* divergencies which exist, and that he is not acquainted with the literature on the subject. To sketch briefly, whilst the symptoms and *post-mortem* conditions of puerperal fever are similar in the cow, mare, sheep, and bitch, yet the symptoms and *post-mortem* lesions of puerperal apoplexy are never seen in the mare, the sheep, and the bitch. Again, parturient apoplexy is so rare that one might almost say it is never observed in cows before the third calf; yet they bring forth their young in the same byres, shippons, and sheds as do the older ones; the same bedding serves for all, and the same people attend them. If a case of this disease occurs at the time of the calving of one of the younger, no precautions are adopted, and the same hands and instruments assist in delivery, yet they never contract the disease, nor ever become affected with puerperal fever as a consequence—that is to say, so far as we, up to the present, have been able to recognise.

I venture to think that my answer will at least have the effect of showing to your correspondent and to all intelligent people that the veterinary surgeon has some ground for considering puerperal fever and puerperal apoplexy to be totally distinct diseases, and also that his evidence and opinion ought not to be lightly set on one side. Will you permit me to add that the veterinary profession although considering these to be distinct diseases, is not at all satisfied with the pathology of parturient apoplexy? The question is of great importance, and if Dr. Cullingworth, seeing the points I have raised, is prepared to sustain the proposition that the two are only modifications of one disease, I shall be very pleased to meet him, and only hope that pathology may progress a little in the discussion. Dr. Cullingworth will see with me, however, the necessity of transferring the same to an arena in which the issues raised can at once be critically examined and valued. I would suggest that the subject be brought before an audience composed of surgeons and veterinary surgeons, such as might be obtained in the meeting of some of our medical and veterinary medical societies."

To this crushing answer Dr. Cullingworth replies in a letter published on November 19th which places "A. B." in the awkward position of having published a private letter without permission, and of having obtained an opinion from a medical man on a description of a series of cases, and then of having applied it to a general question of pathology. This is the Doctor's letter, or rather the important part of it :—

Sir,—I have received this morning a copy of yesterday's *Guardian*, containing an exceedingly able and courteous letter on the above subject from the President of the Lancashire Veterinary Medical Association, Mr. Wolstenholme. In reply, allow me to say that my letter was not written with a view to publication, but in answer to a private communication. I had no intention of denying the existence of puerperal apoplexy as a distinct affection, for I had not sufficient knowledge of the diseases of cows to justify me in expressing an opinion on the general question. But with reference to the particular series of cases described by my correspondent I had definite data on which to form an opinion, and here I saw no reason to think that the symptoms were to be accounted for otherwise than by regarding them as different manifestations of the same disease, a disease analogous to puerperal fever in the human female. As Mr. Wolstenholme says, the question of the pathology of milk fever is one better suited for discussion in a scientific society than in the columns of a daily paper, and if such a conference as he suggests be arranged, I will certainly do my best to attend.

## UNSOUND MEAT.

Mr. Davey, Inspector of provisions, applied to the Court for an order for the disposal of a quantity of beef seized by him, and alleged to be unsound. The inspector stated that he considered the lungs of the animal slaughtered not entirely sound. He, however, was of opinion that this did not render the beef unfit for human food, but, having regard to the public safety, he could not pass it without the carcase being first examined by a veterinary surgeon.

Mr. Dunlop was then examined, and stated that the lungs had been affected with tuberculosis, but it was so minute that only a scientific man could have detected it. He considered the beef not unfit for human food, but the milk of such cow might be contagious to the person using it.

The MAGISTRATES highly complimented Mr. Davey on his ability in detecting so minute a disease, and it would be satisfactory to the public to know that they had so efficient an officer to guard their interests.

Mr. SPILLER added that the evidence certainly showed the inspector's competency to fill the important office entrusted to him.—*Belfast News Letter, 4th December*, 1888.

[Our correspondent in calling attention to the above extract, says: "The case was very well marked, some of the masses of tubercle in the lungs being as large as a man's fist, When cases of this sort turn up frequently, and it is only the worst that are recognised by the official who has charge of the public slaughter house, it is certain that unsound meat must be constantly passing unobserved into the market," and he suggests the advisability of appointing scientific men to deal with matters of this kind,—ED.]

## COLOR OF THE SKIN OF MEN AND ANIMALS IN INDIA.

In India cattle, sheep, pigs, buffaloes, and horses, whatever the colour of their hair, have black skins.

An explanation was offered of this fact by Surgeon-Major Alcock, in a paper published in *Nature*, August 21st, 1884, which has not received the attention it deserves. The title of the paper is, "Why Tropical Man is Black."

After enumerating some of the theories that have been expounded by physiologists in struggling with this problem, he states his own, which summarily expressed is "that the black skin of the negro is but the smoked glass through which alone his wide-spread sentient nerve-endings could be enabled to regard the sun."

The well-established law that surfaces of given material exposed to the solar rays become heated in proportion to their darkness of tint has rendered the colour of the negro an apparent physical paradox. The demand for coolness under tropical sunshine should give such advantage to the white man, that under conditions of primitive nakedness he would have there survived as the fittest for such conditions.

This conclusion, however, is based on reasoning that only includes one of the factors of the problem, viz., the *heat* of the solar rays. The experience of shampooers and other attendants in Turkish baths shows that men may be continually exposed to higher temperatures than those prevailing in tropical countries without suffering any injury to health, or even any inconvenience. Many of our English

workmen do heavy work in temperatures exceeding that of the Sahara. During the hot summer of 1868 in the reheating and other furnaces at Sir John Brown & Co.'s works, Sheffield, a thermometer stood at 120 degrees with the furnace-doors shut. The men were exposed to much higher temperatures from radiant heat when charging and withdrawing the great armour-plate piles—over 200 degs. At enamelling works and at glass works the temperature is still higher; 145 degs. is a common temperature in the stoke-holes of steam-packets in the Red Sea. Such work is, of course, exhausting, but not injurious; such temperatures are enjoyable when no muscular efforts and no clothing are demanded, as in a Turkish bath.

On the other hand, at the Creusot Steel Works, where an electric furnace is used which gives out a light of 100,000 candles, the men who are exposed to the glare at a distance of ten or twelve yards suffer severely, though the heat is but nominal. They have to work with great caution and intermittently. Nevertheless, after such intermittent exposure of one or two hours, the effect is "a painful sensation in the throat, face, and temples, while the skin assumes a copper-red hue." The *British Medical Journal* describes other symptoms, including a discharge of tears, in spite of using coloured spectacles, which is very copious for twenty-four hours. Simultaneous headache and sleeplessness are experienced, which are caused partly by the copious discharge of tears and partly by pain and the feverish state of the body. Finally, during the next few days the skin of the face begins to peel off."

The seat of all this irritation is obviously not in the cuticle, which is merely a protective covering of the body, as insensible as the hair and finger-nails. But immediately beneath it is the *cutis vera*, the true skin, a membrane involving so close and intricate a tissue of nerves and blood-vessels that we cannot insert a needle-point without doing violence to a nerve-ending and rupturing a blood-vessel, *i.e.*, without pain and bleeding.

The cuticle is translucent, quite as translucent as the plates of horn used as the windows of old-fashioned lanthorns. The blush of the cutis is visible through it. A multitude of other facts besides those stated above might be cited to show that the tissue of nerves and blood-vessels constituting the cutis is painfully sensitive to the action of light exceeding a moderate degree of intensity.

Our most advanced physiologists now regard vision as a specialised skin function that has been gradually developed and concentrated in the organs of sight; that the optic nerve which now sees has been evolved from skin nerves that originally could only feel. This conclusion has been reached by observations on animals which display by comparison a gradual process from localised skin-vision to rudimentary eyes, and onwards to fully differentiated optical apparatus.

Earthworms, for example, as proved by Darwin, although without eyes, distinguish readily between light and darkness, and this power is only possessed by the anterior portion of the animal. Examples of the progress from this to the rudimentary eyes of the medusa, star-fishes, etc., are quoted in Surgeon-Major Alcock's paper.

The carbonaceous colouring-matter of the negro is situated in the *rete mucosum*, or mucous network, which constitutes the inner basis of the cuticle or epidermis where the horny cells of the cuticle are formed. This is just where such opaque matter is required for protecting the sensitive nerve-endings of the true skin from the injurious action of excessive sun-glare.

The position and known functions of the iris appear to present another argument in support of this theory. At the back of the eye, in a position corresponding to that of the true or under-skin, we have a similar membrane, similarly including a tissue of outspread nerve-endings, those of the specialised optic nerve. In front of this we have the cornea, corresponding to the cuticle, between them the iris. The work performed by the iris is that of a dark, adjustable screen, which admits the quantity of light demanded for the purposes of vision, but excludes any excess that would produce painful and mischievous nervous irritation. The colour of the iris varies, like that of the skin, with the original habitat of the races of men. The tropical races have dark eyes as well as dark skin. Those of higher latitudes have light eyes and skin.

This variation proceeds regularly up to a certain latitude, and then comes a remarkable and very suggestive exception. The arctic races, the Esquimaux, the Lapps, or Finns, and the "Hyperborean," or Mongolian races generally have dark eyes, "are olivaceous in colour, the skin varying from a kind of sallow lemon peel through various shades of greater depth, but is never entirely fair nor intensely swarthy." (Colonel Chas. Hamilton Smith, "The Natural History of the Human Species").

Why this exception? The answer to this question is that it fits these people to endure the snow-glare to which they are exposed during more than the first half of their long summer daylight.

They have migrated very widely even to sub-tropical and tropical regions, and there they have more or less dispensed with clothing and have readily developed a darker skin. The Papuans and black Kalmucs are examples of this.—*W. Mattieu Williams, F.R.A.S. in "Scientific News."*

## NOTES AND NEWS.

### Overcome by the Tempter.

A writer in *The Cornhill Magazine* cites some amusing instances of the way in which the words of the services are misunderstood or misinterpreted by the ignorant in the rural districts. In one case a Yorkshire incumbent exhorted a woman to endeavour to dissuade her husband from the practice of taking immoderate doses of quack medicines. "It is a downright sin," urged the minister. "I know

it," replied the woman, "and many's the time I've prayed against it in the Church Service." On being asked to say what passage she referred to, she replied that it was the prayer in the Litany, "From all false *doctoring*, good Lord, deliver us."

### An honourable restitution.

Elliman, the maker of the famous embrocation for horses, who died some time ago, left an injunction to his heirs, which they have just carried out. Thirty years ago, when a draper in Slough, he failed, and paid 9s. 6d. in the pound. He commenced life afresh, struck on the mixture which bears his name, and made his money. The former creditors were surprised the other day to receive 10s. 6d. of their claims upon the ex-draper of Slough, together with compound interest at 3 per cent., which of course, more than quadrupled the original debt.

### Sir Morell Mackenzie

*The Lancet* is informed that Sir Morell Mackenzie has resigned his membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

### The Medical Council and their Register.

The General Medical Council has been busy at its recent session in striking names off the medical register. First was that of William Henry Emerio Burke, who, having been convicted of wilful murder and sentenced to be hanged, has had his sentence commuted into one of penal servitude for life. His name has been erased from the roll of members of the College of Surgeons, and the Medical Council has struck him off the Register. Mr. Charles Frederick Groome suffered a like penalty for having published a pamphlet entitled "The Pathway of Safety," which the Council of the College of Surgeons regarded as "an indecent advertisement relating to his practice as a surgeon, prejudicial to the interest and derogatory to the honour of the College, and disgraceful to the profession of surgery." The erasure of the name of Alexander Lindsay was a new departure. The evidence brought forward was to the effect that an unqualified man named Edwin Middlebrooke kept a herbalist's shop at Smallthorne, in Staffordshire, and had called himself "M.D., L.M., and Associate of the British Medical Reform Asssociation." That the Apothecaries' Society prosecuted him, and obtained judgment against him for £20 penalty and costs. That then Middlebroke pretended to sell his business, and that afterwards the name of Dr. Lindsay was substituted for his own in accounts, &c. The defence was that Middlebrooke was merely Lindsay's unqualified assistant; but the Council adopted the view that Lindsay was cover to Middlebrooke, and regarding that as "infamous conduct" from a professional point of view, they ordered his name to be erased from the register, intimating at the same time that it was not impossible that the name should be restored after an interval. Other charges of "covering" were brought before the Council, but no result followed.

### Sulphonal.

The *Pharmaceutishe Centralhalle* has obtained from the firm of J. D. Riedel, of Berlin, particulars regarding the tests for sulphonal which have heen agreed upon by the four manufacturers who have recently combined to control the quality and price of that new hypnotic. It has been mutually agreed that no sulphonal shall be placed upon the market which does not correspond to the following tests:—(1) The product must be absolutely white in colour; (2) quite free from odour; (3) and should not posses a pronounced bitter taste, this test being determined by tasting a solution of a standard sample and then the sample under examination; tasting in the reverse way being repeated after an hour. The one who tastes should not know which is the standard and which is the sample under test. (4) The melting point must be 125·5 C., but an allowance of ·02 C. below or above is permitted. (5) A saturated aqueous solution at 15 C. should give no reaction with a 1-per-mille solution of potassium permanganate within one hour. The manufacturers have also agreed to seal up and reserve 20 grammes of each lot of sulphonal made, and to give purchasers a sealed sample of 5 grammes of the lot with which they are supplied, so that if the bulk does not agree with the sample the buyer may so inform the seller by telegraph within twelve hours.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Communications for the Editor to be addressed 20 Fulham Road, S.W.*

*Original articles and reports should be written on one side only of the paper, and authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarily for publication.*

*We shall be obliged by early intelligence of all matters worth bringing under the notice of the profession, and thankful to any friends who may send us cuttings from local papers, containing facts of interest.*

### THE DIPLOMA OF THE R.C.V.S.

There are thousands of owners of Horses and Cattle, indifferent, doubtless, whether they may patronize one in the possession of a diploma or not; at the same time there are those who believe the men they employ are fully qualified, and would prefer to recognize qualified men. There are cities and towns in Ireland where men are practising who have not the warrant of the College, still as they are before the public, are placed on a level by that public with qualified men. For my part I have never recognised a man whose name is not to be found in the Register, and never will. Men in practice cannot publish names of non-certified members, but the College could, if they feel disposed, publish the names of those qualified men in a leading newspaper, stating merely the names of those holding diplomas.

In the present state of overcrowding, I am of opinion the Council of the R.C.V.S. should perform this trifling act of justice to their own members. Much could be written on

this subject, but I think you will understand what I mean. This city (Limerick), has four men, whose names are on the Register, but there is a fifth in practice whose name is absent. If he has the diploma of the College, it should be found in the Register, and in justice to him the matter ought to be enquired into. I wonld afford any information needed.

Faithfully yours,
R. H. DYER.

## THE NATIONAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Hurndall does not seem to be very well pleased with my answer to his serious charge of my friends and self forming "a ring." I am not at all surprised at it, for few men like to be beaten at their own game. All I wish to do is to *prove* to your readers that I am *not* untruthful, and in order to do this I challenge Mr. Hurndall to give the names of my friends who formed "the ring" he referred to in yours of Nov. 10th, and to say when and at what date we met, as he has had the audacity to state the conclusion we had arrived at. If he cannot do this, I ask him to apologise, as a gentleman should, after making a mistake. It is a poor way out of an argument for a man to hide himself behind the cloak that "I (Mr. Hurndall) desire it to be understood that I am not replying to Mr. Banham; I am sorry I am no longer able to do so, but no gentleman with any self respect could continue a correspondence with one who thinks proper to bring forward a charge of untruthfulness." In answer to this, I would say Mr. Hurndall should have made himself quite certain that he had got hold of the *right story* before he undertook to make such an accusation; but having done so, he should stand, like a man, to the answer; and not shrink behind any cloak. I expect, when he permits himself to hold a mutual explanation (which I should have freely given him the other day—as far as I was able—had he given me the opportunity) he will find he is labouring under a misapprehension, and will doubtless be very much surprised. If any man chooses to bring my name and actions into ridicule falsely, whether intentionally or unintentionally, he must be prepared to be asked to prove his statements.

*My original question* to Mr. Hurndall was for him to "state *plainly* his grievance, and also as frankly state how, and in what way he became acquainted with the information upon which he founds his conclusions" of Oct. 27th. *It has taken from that date to this* for your readers to obtain only a *partial* answer to those questions. We are still in ignorance of how Mr. Hurndall became acquainted with the necessary information for him to ask in *The Record* of Oct. 27th :—

1.—How it happened that he was not elected on the Provisional Committee?

2.—Has some new departure been made this year?

3.—Is it a case of another ring being formed?

4.—Is it negligence on the part of the Secretary?

5.—Has any other member been left out in the cold?

We should be glad if he would answer this; and at the same time tell us how he reconciles the following statement in *The Record* of Dec. 1st, viz: "I must advance some facts that have come to my knowledge, as the *result* of the appearance of my enquiry in your issue of the 27th of October?" with his letter of October 27th? I should also like him to tell us what there is *remarkable*, in your report of onr first meeting of the Provisional Committee, published in *The Record* of Oct. 20th, to warrant him in asking the questions above quoted? It would further enlighten us, if he would tell us *straight* whether or not his letter of Oct. 27th was the *result* of the "facts" he publishes on Dec. 10th, coming to his knowledge *previous to that period*? If this is *not* so, perhaps he will inform your readers what caused him to ask any at all.

Mr. Hurndall further says:—"My original question was, Who elected the Provisional Committee?" This evidently is incorrect, as the five questions mentioned above were asked on October 27; and it was not until November 10 that we find the following:—

1.—Who elected the Provisional Committee?

2.—Who the Members of that Committee are?

3.—How it was that Mr. Edgar and myself were not allowed to take part in the election of the Provincial Committee?

Your readers will have learned that Mr. Hurndall's "grievance" is that he considers (1) he was "left out in the cold" by which we presume he means he was *not* elected on the Provisional Committee; (2) that he was not permitted to take part in the election of the Provisional Committee.

Mr. James Simpson now comes forward to aid Mr. Hurndall, and confesses that "*some* of the facts published were supplied by me." Can Mr. Simpson truthfully say that there is a fact published by Mr. Hurndall that was not supplied by him? Then he goes on to say "Mr. Hurndall was in total ignorance (?) of all that had taken place so far as I know (?); anyway he received no letter or information from me directly or indirectly until *I supplied an omission of yours*, in time to enable him to write his letter which appeared in the "Veterinary Record" of *last week*."

I should like to know how Mr. Simpson knew Mr. Hurndall was in total ignorance, and also which "*omission*" of mine he refers to?

A "generous explanation" will be given as soon as *generous* and *straightforward* answers are forthcoming to *my* original questions.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
GEO. A. BANHAM,
*Hon. Gen. Sec. N.V.A.*


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